

Message from the President

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,

It started as a project of one neighbor's commitment to do a good deed for a senior neighbor. It ended being a project of true neighborly love. Neighbors, new and old worked in harmony to get the tree box complete – no corners were cut in labor. Despite the rain from the sky and the clay/cement in the ground, they never stopped until it was complete to perfection. This was also the place of violence a few years ago where two beloved young men in the neighborhood died after a senseless drive by shooting.

I came across the January 2013 SCA newsletter. Tears welled in my eyes as I read again the passing of our beloved founder of the newsletter and a founding member of SCA. The letter reminisced with gratitude the efforts of our predecessors of SCA who were involved in all aspects of the community to improve the welfare and well-being of the neighbors. It was through their fearless leadership and commitment that crime, drugs, rodents and trash decreased. These fearless neighbors fought the battle for safety in the neighborhood when it was extremely dangerous and had to be done face to face before the technology of social media, apps and cameras. I am so grateful for their efforts.

There are still concerns about crimes such as break-ins and robberies. Police Sargent Ellis and Lt. Wright from 5th District police have addressed these issues at recent SCA meetings. US Attorney Channing Phillips has also been a guest speaker to address and answer questions from neighbors on crime related concerns.

Attention to the sources of potential dangers that affect the entire community must also be addressed. These dangers are not separated by age, gender, race or social economic status, they affect us all. They include:

Dangers of illegal construction that affect the foundation of adjoining homes, obstructive views that can cause accidents and contractors working without the required precautions for environmental safety. Mr. Whitescraver, from DCRA, attended a SCA meeting to address specific concerns and regulations.

Lead is present in most DC houses built prior to 1978 and the effects of lead can cause permanent damage to children and pregnant women. Constance Ervin will address issues and precaution for lead contamination at the next SCA meeting.

Stronghold has on-going problems with the quality of water. Our hydrants must be flushed every 30 days.

We need the help and support as we continue to follow the steps of our predecessors in working to make Stronghold safe and beautiful every day. Everyone and every voice is important.

In unity and service,
Laura Jackson

Note: Congratulations to Ben Fitzgerald, SCA Treasurer and Stronghold logo contest winner! Stay tuned for the unveiling in our next issue!

STRONGHOLD CIVIC ASSOCIATION
"WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1991"

SCA NEWSFLASH!
SPRING
Vol. 10, No. 2



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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



VOTE! – JUNE 14

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!: RECAP

Stronghold neighborhood Beautification Day—Saturday, April 23



Franklin Street neighbors dig in, up, out, and plant!

The finished products: Fabulous!



EASTER IN THE STRONGHOLD: *The tradition continues, thanks to Tykishia McCray!*



STRONGHOLD COMMUNITY WELLNESS CORNER

Stronghold Community,

Going “green” is good for your body, and good for the planet. Please take a moment to look at the chart below. It provides some useful information on how to protect our environment.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU

BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS

reduce REUSE recycle

 Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three “R’s” to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

choose sustainable seafood

 Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.

Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
PLANT A TREE

EDUCATE

 When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

Volunteer!

 Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!

CONSERVE WATER

 The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.

-SHOP-WISELY

 Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.

Don't send chemicals into our waterways.

 Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.

Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA

 Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

NOAA

oceanservice.noaa.gov

(Shawn Stokes, contributor)

From The Councilman's Office

Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016

Earlier this month along with Committee on the Judiciary Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Bonds, Grosso, May, Nadeau, and Silverman, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie introduced the "Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016," a bill that makes sweeping reforms to the District's juvenile justice system. Measures in the bill prioritize rehabilitation and improve conditions of youth confinement. A hearing on the bill is scheduled for June 1. The Committee also considered Bill 21-0506 for the establishment of a Community Health Emergency Link Paramedicine Pilot Program, intended to address gaps in the city's fractured emergency response system.

Councilmember McDuffie attended the March 31 groundbreaking ceremony for Dance Place's 8th Street Arts Park, which will add vibrancy, green space, and outdoor event space to a growing section of the Brookland and Edgewood neighborhoods. A soft grand opening is slated for summer 2016.

Editor's note

Exercise Your Rights!

VOTE!

DC Primary Election

JUNE 14, 2016

Early Voting: May 31—June 11

Youth NEWS

"Know Your Rights" Special Education Panel Discussion

Families of children with special needs may take advantage of several opportunities this spring. On April 19, the Ward Five Council on Education and the Office of the Student Advocate will co-host a "**Know Your Rights" Special Education Panel Discussion** at the Lamond-Riggs Neighborhood Library. The panel will equip parents with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their child's educational needs, and will discuss the special education process in the District of Columbia with a focus on the 504 plan & IEP processes. RSVP to student.advocate@dc.gov.

Move, Speak, Play Community Day

DC's Strong Start Early Intervention Program will hold a **Move, Speak, Play Community Day** at Fort Lincoln Park on May 21. The event is designed to provide modified activities for children of all abilities, and to give parents an opportunity to engage in a relaxed space with community members working directly in areas related to their needs. Those who would like to participate in official events, which include a Day Camp for Pre-Registered Children and an Adult Softball Tournament, should email info@moveplayspeak.com.

(Articles contributed by Tiffany Fitzgerald)

CITY NEWS

Petition to Reopen The Chateau Nightclub

Due to the sudden death of the owner, the Chateau closed its doors last month. This is the nightclub that SCA had used for our annual Cabarets and is considered a "historic landmark" by locals that have enjoyed this venue for many years as a home for hand dancing. Our deep sympathies to the family and fond memories of our neighborhood's past events there.

Trina Butler sent the following note:

There is a petition out to reopen the Chateau. But, they need signatures. The link is below. Click the link and search Chateau.....It may not do anything but it shows that we care.[?] Please pass this on to others that might want to sign. Search · Change.org<<https://www.change.org/p/cha>> Note: 193 supporters of the 200 requested have signed the petition to-date.

Planning Updates

McMillan Advisory Group (meets every 2nd Thursday at the Inspired Teaching School at 7pm, open to the public) will have a second presentation of the plans for the park area of the McMillan development by representatives of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (the McMillan project is a DMPED project) at the next meeting on May 12. These plans will be presented to the Historic Preservation Review Board soon (but no specific date yet) because the site is a DC Historic Landmark. The Jair Lynch Parcel 2 buildings, in about the middle of the site on the 1st Street side of the site, were approved by Zoning recently. The proposed grocery store and associated buildings on the North Capitol Street side of the site opposite Franklin Street have not yet been finally approved.

McMillan lawsuit: A suit has been filed challenging the zoning and historic preservation decisions of the DC government allowing high-rise, high-density construction on a location appropriate, according to the Comprehensive Plan and the city's Future Land Use Map, for only five-story buildings, and for approving demolition of 80-90% of a DC Historic Landmark with little to no mitigation or alternative plans. Opening briefs have

been presented on this case that was filed shortly after the Zoning Order and the Order of the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation decisions were issued last April. No docket number or date for oral arguments has been set yet, but further information should be available on the web in the next week or so.

DDOT Crosstown Multimodal Transportation Study, public workshop number 3, will be on June 9th at the Trinity University Great Hall, open to the public, 6pm - 8pm, with a presentation at 6:30pm. The first public workshop was also at Trinity, the second was at the Chavez School. At the second workshop, DDOT presented some of the results of both public input and DDOT thinking about the kinds of problems people who participated in the workshops brought up. For example one proposal is for express bus lanes on Michigan Ave. between the hospital center and Brookland Metro Station, and recreation of the street grid at the area just west of the hospital center, among many other ideas. More information, including an online map where you can make suggestions and observations about traffic conditions and improvements, is available here: <http://www.dccrosstownstudy.com>

The Eckington and Bloomingdale communities to our south and west are both working on an application to be recognized as historic districts primarily to stop the epidemic of 'pop-up' structures that developers are building onto those row houses. Information is available online from the Eckington and Bloomingdale Civic Associations about meetings concerning these specifics. A lot of really interesting neighborhood history is coming out of this application. Though Stronghold likely would qualify as a historic district, I have not heard anyone interested in making the application, and even Eckington and Bloomingdale would not have were it not for the epidemic of pop-up structures that are increasing in their neighborhoods. A pop-up in those neighborhoods, which are R-4 zoning, allows the owner to sell out the finished units in the building as condos. Stronghold is all R-3 zoning, which would permit building an additional story on a house, but our houses cannot be sold off as separate condo units. Our R-3 homes can have one 'auxiliary dwelling unit' for rent, not sale, such as a basement apartment.

[Kirby Vining]



Editor's Pick

Asters

**Sculpture Garden Walkway
near National Archives*

AND

Tulips

**U.S. Botanic Gardens*

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- *MOTHER'S DAY!** **May 8**
- *MEMORIAL DAY** **May 30**
- *Purple Stride DC-Pancreatic Cancer Walk/Run-downtown** **June 11**
- *DC Primary Election** **June 14**
- *FATHER'S DAY!** **June 19**
- * DC Public Schools out!** **June 16**
- *SUMMER BEGINS** **June 20**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Have questions? Contact President at
strongholdcivicasociation@gmail.com
or SCA voicemail: 202-656-7431*

Want to join the Stronghold listserver?

Go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/strongholdcivicasociation> & join

Group email address:

strongholdcivicasociation@yahoo.com

or contact Latoria: Latoriae@yahoo.com

Want to join Next Door group?

Contact Devi & Andy Keller via website:

https://stronghold.nextdoor.com/news_feed/

Questions for Newsletter Editor?

**Email Doris J. Newton at
phenomw@msn.com**

**Other Communications team members
contributing articles: Tiffany Fitzgerald
and Shawn Stokes**

SCA Officers 2015-2017

- Laura Jackson President
- Terrance McCray Vice President
- Devi Bengfort Recording Secretary
- Kirby Vining Director of Planning
- Ben Fitzgerald Treasurer/
Financial Secretary

NOTE: OUR LOCATION HAS CHANGED

Save the date:

Next SCA Meeting is June 6, 2016

Meetings held monthly

1st Monday (except holidays)

at 7:00 pm

Inspired Teaching School

(former Shaed Elementary School)

200 Douglas Street, NE

Contact Block Captain for more info

"Stronghold Civic Association NEEDS YOU!!"